

WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

HELD: 13th October 2010

Commenced: 6 pm

Finished: 8 pm

PRESENT:

Andrew Hill	-	WLBC
William J Taylor MBE	-	Chairman, WLBC
Dean Holden	-	Lancashire Constabulary
David Tilleray	-	WLBC
Bruce Jassi	-	Lancashire Police Authority
Steve Mahon	-	WLBC
Mel Ormesher	-	LCC
Mary Lyon	-	NHS Central Lancs.
Steve Wilson	-	LF&RS
Carolyn Evans	-	LCC
County Cllr William Cropper	-	Lancashire Police Authority
Gareth Dykes	-	West Lancs. PACT
Louisa Armitage Parkinson	-	WLBC
Colin Buckley	-	LYOT
Sam Jones	-	LDAAT
Cllr Una Atherley	-	WLBC
Cllr Nolan	-	WLBC (observer)
County Cllr Aldridge	-	LCC
Mike Lock	-	Lancashire Probation Trust
Christine Coleman	-	Edge Hill University
Kiran Gill	-	Victim Support
Louise Cropper	-	Help Direct

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cliff Owens	-	WLBC
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1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Greenall, Janet Tyrer, Adrienne Ledson, Chris Dennis, Stuart Williams, Helen Slee, Manda Edwards, Eleanor Maddocks, Faye Kellett, John Fleet, Mandy Naylor

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING

The Chairman provided the Partnership with a verbal update on the issue of Public Sector Spending. The Chairman stated that details of the Comprehensive Spending Review will be announced on the 20th October 2010 but added that we will not know the full impact until the 1st week in December when specific grant figures are provided to LCC and the Borough Council. The Chairman advised that the comprehensive spending review would involve cuts on the scale that we have not dealt with before from almost every government department and this will provide us with tough choices in everything we do in future. The Chairman provided an overview of the potential impact on Neighbourhood Policing if funding is cut in this area and discussed the possible impact on crime statistics and community safety. This will require speedy decisions on determining our priorities and the management task will be to reduce the impact as much as possible.

Bruce Jassi provided the CSP with a comprehensive overview of the potential impact of cuts against policing. Bruce provided examples of significant savings already achieved in Lancashire through a combination of processes including reviews undertaken to increase effectiveness of the Police and a reduction in the number of Communication Centres, which was achieved with no loss to performance.

5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Chairman invited partner agencies to provide a verbal overview of their quarterly performance information, which was contained within members meeting packs.

Dean Holden advised the Partnership that the positive performance has continued and added that we have had a very good 2nd quarter with continued overall reductions of 8% against all crime. Dean highlighted the significant reductions achieved against domestic burglary, which have reduced from an average of 64 per month to 24. Dean highlighted violent crime as the main performance indicator for concern but added this remains a challenging target for this year as we are comparing the figures with some excellent performance from last year. Dean added that Domestic Abuse accounts for approximately a quarter of the violent crime figures but is difficult to police from a patrol point of view.

Dean highlighted the excellent reductions achieved against ASB and advised the Partnership that Andrew Rhodes is now the force wide lead on ASB and vulnerability. Dean stated that Freshers Week was a great success and asked that his thanks be passed onto Andrew Hill and Cliff Owens for their support in putting together the multi-agency Freshers Week Reassurance Group. Dean highlighted the threat we face from organised crime groups in Merseyside who are filling gaps in the drugs market that open up when the police are successfully removing local drug dealers. Dean stated that there is an ongoing response from the police to this threat and disruption tactics are being planned as well as the continued effective use of ANPR. Dean added that the spike shown in performance against vehicle crime could be attributed to an increase of offences against cars parked at the University, which have

been targeted by criminals. Dean added that discussions with the University are ongoing on how to reduce this threat.

Cllr Nolan raised the issue of the effectiveness of gating within communities and the impact that it has had in other areas for reducing ASB. Dean advised that gating is primarily concerned with reducing burglaries and serious acquisitive crime and is not seen as a tool to reduce ASB. The Chairman also stated that Gating is historically utilised in areas with traditional back-to-back houses and ginnels running at the back of the housing. It was highlighted that the design of housing in Skelmersdale does not make gating an appropriate solution.

Discussion also took place on methods to reduce motorcycle nuisance. Dean Holden advised that the Police have recently seen much success with Operation Click in reducing this specific ASB issue.

Grant Murdoch added that the positive work of Young Peoples Services and specifically PAYP through funding provided by the CSP and Young Peoples Services over the summer may have had a contributory impact on the reductions of ASB recorded. This statement was supported by the Chairman who praised the quality of service currently provided by YPS in the Borough.

Mike Lock provided the group with an overview of the new performance format, which is being used to present Probation performance information to the CSP. Mike continued by providing a comprehensive overview of current performance against reducing re-offending. Mike highlighted violent crime as key area of conviction in both West Lancashire and across the County. West Lancashire has an adult re-offending rate of 9.4% compared to 11.2% in Lancashire.

Mike advised the group that performance last year against the PPO cohort had been poor and this was identified as being as a result of not targeting appropriate individuals and keeping PPO's on the scheme for too long. Other individuals on last year's cohort may have been more suitable for management under ASB or MAPA arrangements. Mike continued by providing an overview of performance and highlighted the 1st quarter results for Community Payback work undertaken in the Borough.

Some debate took place on the merits of Community Payback and on the theme of rehabilitation of offenders within the community. Bill stated that the average resident sees Prison as a punishment and allot of effort will need to be made to reassure the community that community payback and rehabilitation in the community is not a soft option.

Mike highlighted to the group that serious offenders are much more likely to receive a custodial sentence and added that non-compliance of orders would lead to a custodial sentence.

Cllr Nolan requested that consideration be given to work being undertaken in his ward. Mike advised the CSP that Probation are looking to formalise the arrangements around Community Payback with key officers from the Council who can identify projects that can be undertaken.

Steve Mahon provided an overview of performance figures for the ASB Team and provided the CSP with examples of positive partnership working with the Police during the Summer of Confidence Campaign, which was led by Lancashire Constabulary. Steve also provided examples of ongoing and successful enforcement activity which the team have been involved in that has led to positive outcomes for the community. Steve provided an overview of two key points that were raised at the new Tenants Participation Group meeting. This included the concern amongst residents with motorcycle nuisance and the positive relationship that the residents have with their local PCSO's and Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Steve Wilson provided the CSP with a verbal overview of the performance information contained in the meeting pack on behalf of Lancashire Fire and Rescue. Steve stated that performance across the board remains strong with the exception of deliberate primary fires. These are slightly above target and a small proportion of these have involved wheelie bin fires. Steve highlighted a number of complimentary solutions to this problem which would include supplying safety locks for bins in targeted areas and none flammable wheelie bins for high risk areas / properties.

It was noted that initial discussions have taken place with the Community Safety Team and Lancashire Fire and Rescue on the development of funding bids to address this area of concern.

David Tilleray advised the CSP that the Bonfire Strategy Group has also discussed this issue. Dave added although it is an area of concern the number of wheelie bin fires have been relatively low when compared to the number of wheelie bins that have been distributed.

Steve provided the group with a brief verbal overview of the serious fire on Burscough Industrial Estate. Steve advised the CSP that the fire took place in the flammable none toxic part of the site. Steve stated that a fire curtain was put in place but added the suppression systems in the building did not work and added that toxic materials were stored in the other side of the site. Although chemical waste was mixed it has been tested and chemists have confirmed that there was no danger of an airborne toxic threat. Steve stated that 70 fire fighters were on site and 13 fire engines. A Lancashire Fire and Rescue presence will remain on site for the next week.

The Chairman praised the work of LF&RS and this was supported by Dean Holden who added that their work was exceptional and made the constabulary's job much easier.

Andrew Hill provided a brief overview of performance for the Environmental Protection Team. Andrew stated that overall performance for the 2nd quarter period was very positive. Andrew added that more proactive talks to schools and community groups have been planned.

Sam Jones provided an overview of the performance information on behalf of Addaction. Sam advised the CSP that a new service for drug and alcohol has been commissioned for the Central and Southern area, which includes West

Lancashire. Sam advised that the new service, which commenced on the 1st October, is delivered by Greater Manchester West who successfully tendered to take over the delivery of the adult substance misuse service.

Sam added her thanks to the Chairman and Community Safety Officer for their support in securing the premises at Westgate as the main hub for the delivery of substances misuse services in the Borough.

Sam stated that on behalf of the LDAAT she is keen for an opportunity to become involved in the reviewing process of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which is led by Lancashire Constabulary. Dean Holden stated that he would welcome the LDAAT's input.

Colin Buckley provided the CSP with an overview of performance on behalf of Lancashire Youth Offending Team. Colin stated that he has reviewed the format for reporting to the CPS to ensure the information provided is more relevant to the service delivered. Colin continued by providing an overview for the key areas of performance, which were supplied in members meeting packs. Colin highlighted that the spike in performance for the South Lancashire YOT was primarily down to two individuals who had committed 14 and 17 offences respectively. One of which is now on a YRO and one is in custody.

Colin provided an overview on the category 'First Time Entrants' which is a new performance measure and therefore has no local comparator figure. The target measures first time entrants into the Criminal Justice System as opposed to the Youth Justice System. Colin advised that West Lancashire does have a far higher rate in this category compared with the rest of the County.

Colin advised the CSP that the NEET performance figures are currently very good with targets being achieved. This was supported by Grant Murdoch who provided an overview of current local performance against the NEET targets.

Louisa Armitage Parkinson provided the partnership with an overview of the performance figures for the IDVA service. Lou advised that the current caseload is quite high considering that it is managed by one case worker and highlighted that the primary focus is on high risk victims.

6. FUNDED INTERVENTIONS UPDATE

A written progress report for funded interventions for 2010/2011 was enclosed in members meeting packs. Andrew Hill advised that all interventions are on track for completion and provided a brief summary update on recently supported interventions including funding provided to the Police to reduce the threat of violence over the Christmas and New Year period in the night time economy.

7 PROPOSED RATIONALISATION OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURES IN LANCASHIRE

The Chairman provided a brief verbal report against the proposed rationalisation of Community Safety Partnership structures in Lancashire. The Chairman stated that discussion has stalled on this subject pending the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review and the discussion around the future role of the Police Authority and Partnership working.

8. REDUCING PRESCRIPTIVE REGULATION FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

David Tilleray, Executive Manager for Community Services provided the CSP with a verbal overview of the short consultation exercise on reducing the regulations, which prescribe the way Community Safety Partnerships operate. Dave advised that the document relates to Chapter 5, 'Tackling crime together', of the Policing in the 21st Century consultation document.

Dave stated that due to the very short consultation period the Borough Council provided a response to the proposals on behalf of the CSP. Dave continued to provide the CSP with an overview of the proposals and provided some detail on the CSP's response to the proposals. A copy of the document can be obtained from Clifford.owen@westlancs.gov.uk

Face the People

Dave advised the CSP that one of the requirements that Government will seek to repeal is the 'Requirement for strategy group to hold public meetings'. Dave advised however that the requirement for CSPs to consult the community would be retained. Dave provided the group with a background on the cost of the Face the People event and led a discussion on the options that we should consider for next year.

Christine Coleman advised the group that although Edge Hill University were happy to host previous Face the People events, she did not have a strong view on where they should be held. Christine advised that we do face difficult choices on where to target our resources and this should be taken into consideration when deciding how best to engage with the community.

A debate followed amongst Partners with mixed views on whether to continue to hold the event at the University, or an alternative venue either within Ormskirk or Skelmersdale. All partners agreed that the event must be run at a reduced cost.

The Chairman requested that Dave Tilleray explore both options in respect to identifying a suitable locality and venue for holding a Face the People event. The Chairman also requested options for a suitable topic be considered.

Dean Holden briefed the CSP on work currently undertaken by the constabulary around the subject of consultation and the work being carried out on consolidating existing surveys. Grant Murdoch highlighted to the group that the local Youth Council can be used to support and take part in consultation

exercises to ensure young peoples views from across the Borough are represented.

9. POLICING IN THE 21ST CENTURY CONSULTATION: RECONNECTING THE POLICE AND PEOPLE

Bruce Jassi, Lancashire Police Authority, provided the Partnership with a brief verbal overview on the Government's intention to put in place a new deal for the public and a new deal for the police service. Bruce advised that the consultation does not follow the normal approach, which involves a Green Paper being developed followed by a White Paper that becomes a Bill and leads to robust legislation.

The Policing in the 21st Century consultation document outlines the Government's intention to put in place a new deal for the public and a new deal for the police service. Bruce continued by providing the Partnership with an overview of each chapter of the document and the key points are summarised below: -

- Introduce directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners and enable Commissioners to play a role in wider questions of community safety and to reduce some of the bureaucracy for Community Safety Partnerships.
- Protect the operational independence of the police.
- Transfer power away from Whitehall, removing central targets, removing frontline bureaucracy and central guidance freeing up frontline officers and Police Community Support.
- Create a new National Crime Agency to be led by a senior Chief Constable and that will, in particular, lead the fight against organised crime, enhance the security of our borders and provide services best delivered at national level.
- Make the police more efficient at force, regional and national levels so that frontline local policing can be sustained and make the police effective at dealing with serious crimes that cross force boundaries or national borders.
- Make sure everyone plays their full part in cutting crime in a Big Society.

Bruce advised that the responses to this consultation would inform legislation that will be contained in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill that will be introduced in the autumn.

Bruce advised the CSP that Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Police Authority have previously been recognised for their strong performance and added that the biggest weakness of this proposal is introducing this impactful change when we are faced with significant funding cuts. Bruce continued by

stating that the landscape of Lancashire is very diverse and that it would be a challenging task for a single elected Police Commissioner to manage this diversity across such a wide geographical area.

The Chairman stated that this consultation document has been debated by the Lancashire Leaders Group and it was felt that now is not the right time to introduce the proposed restructures whilst faced with significant cuts in funding. The Chairman added that it is recognised that the current system works effectively. The document can be downloaded at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/policing-21st-century/>.

10. LSP PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT FOR CCTV & EXTENSION TO MONITORING CONTRACT

The Chairman provided the Partnership with a background to the West Lancashire LSP bid for the strengthening of CCTV provision in West Lancashire. The LSP awarded funding from the performance reward grant monies in the amount of £380,000 however the funding to the LSP had been reduced by the government by 50%. A revised bid was submitted and was successful with £210,000 capital funding awarded and £10,000 revenue funding.

The Chairman continued by stating that the WLLSP had commented on the professionalism of the bid and thanked the Community Safety Team for their efforts in securing the funding. The Chairman continued by emphasising that the funding would provide a sinking fund to sustain the future of CCTV provision in the Borough with some funding to provide a limited number of new cameras with the revenue monies supporting some additional monitoring costs.

Andrew Hill provided the group with a verbal update on the future of CCTV monitoring. Andrew advised that the monitoring contract has recently been extended for 12 months and added that options for reducing the future monitoring costs for CCTV are being explored by the CCTV Project Management Group.

The Chairman advised the group that the current cost of the monitoring contract is excellent value and added that Remploy are an organisation with a socially productive policy for employing people with disabilities. He cautioned however that we would very likely see a significant increase in the cost for monitoring in the future. The Chairman stated that the CCTV Project Team are currently working with an expert independent consultant to explore future options for reducing costs and maintaining a high quality monitoring service.

11. FRESHERS WEEK MULTI AGENCY PLANNING

Andrew Hill introduced this agenda item stating that the multi-agency Freshers week campaign led by the CSP in Partnership with Edge Hill University had been a great success and well received by the community and local community groups.

Andrew Hill provided an overview of the campaign and added that a multi-agency evaluation meeting was held and attended by a representative of a local community group and University. It was agreed at the evaluation meeting that the Freshers Week Event had been a success and the funding allocated to the Police by the Local Priorities Group was recognised as a contributory factor to the positive outcomes achieved.

This was supported by Christine Coleman who added that the resources committed and positive multi-agency approach has made a significant difference to the successful management of Freshers Week.

12. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

Mike Lock, Probation Service Area Director provided the CSP with a brief verbal progress report on the plans for the implementation of Integrated Offender Management in Southern Division. Mike stated that the Revolution Board has been established and the Terms of Reference agreed. Mike continued by adding that work is ongoing on the development of the Re-offending Strategy and delivery plan. Mike stated that identifying funding to support a management role is a challenge but talks are ongoing between Probation the Police and other partners.

13. DOMESTIC ABUSE MULTI-AGENCY EVENT

Louisa Armitage-Parkinson introduced this agenda item and provided the Partnership with an overview of the objectives of the event. Lou stated that the event was well attended by key officers and added that the screening of the DVD to commemorate the work of the Women's Refuge was very impactful.

14. LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2010 - CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Steve Wilson provided a brief verbal report on the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report and Action Plan 2010. Steve added that there are a number of proposals that are currently out for consultation, which ends on the 6th November. Any partners wishing to be involved can contact Cliff Owens at Clifford.Owens@westlancs.gov.uk for a copy of the document or to submit comments.

15. TASK AND TIME THEMATIC GROUP UPDATES

It was agreed at the meeting that the CSP would receive via the minutes an update on the progress of the two Task and Time Thematic Groups.

A Task and Time Group to look at the problem and develop multi-agency solutions to the Illegal Extraction of Domestic Fuel in the Borough has been established and the first meeting will take place in the near future. Phil Holland Manager of Property Services is leading the Task and Time Group.

The Motorcycle Task and Time Group has met three times and a number of recommendations to the Local Priorities Group have been agreed. This includes plans to erect a K barrier to reduce the impact of illegal use of motorcycles in a key area, the production and erection of Section 59 signage to support Police enforcement and the development of a motorcycle nuisance leaflet to support responsible use of motorcycles and highlight current legislation and enforcement.

The LPG have provided on behalf of the CSP £3,700 to support the recommendations of the Task and Time Group to run a campaign aimed at reducing the impact of the problem and to support the police in delivering Operation Click. It is hoped that the campaign can be delivered by December 2010.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

Louisa advised that Help Direct are working closely with Lancashire Constabulary to provide additional support to anyone identified by the local police as being vulnerable. Louisa continued by adding that similar work is being conducted in partnership with LF&RS with vulnerable people identified by LF&RS, provided with support by Help Direct.

Grant Murdoch provided the group with overview key positive activities, which are being led by Young Peoples services over the bonfire period. Grant stated that a multi-agency event is being run over the 3 nights of the bonfire period at Skelmersdale Fire Station, which builds on previous positive work from last year. The CSP have provided £2,000 in matched funding to support this activity.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business raised.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on the 19th January 2011 at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 52 Derby Street. A buffet will be available from 5.30 pm.